

AN IMPACT OF USING E-JOURNALS IN THE ACADEMICS IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

This study focused the impact of using e-journals on academics i. e. faculty members and research scholars in the university libraries of Bangladesh. This results also explore the purpose of using e-journals, challenges faced by academics and recommendations for improving e-journals services in the university libraries of Bangladesh. The surveyed data have been analyzed using SPSS (16.0) and a structured questionnaire was used to collect data and information. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected in the survey. The graphical presentations have been made using Microsoft Excel 2013. The analysis of results has been explained within the framework of the research. In this study 120 questionnaires were distributed to ten (10) reputed public and private university among academics to collect information and experience about e-journal services.

KEYWORDS: *Electronic Journals, Academics, Research Scholar, Resources & University Libraries*

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INTRODUCTION

E-journals are considered as a major part of the digital collections and vital information services all over the world. In Bangladesh university libraries provide e-journal services to users and most of the users were using e-journals for research purpose. Now-a- days academics and research students are interested to use internet based journals instead of printed journals. Most of the publication processes of e-journals are now done electronically, over the online submission, peer review, editing and hosting on the publisher's website. Development of ICT and its new facilities has created the new models of scholarly communication which is very helpful for the researchers. The medium of e-journals are suitable to access and easily usable for the researcher and have the quality to include huge information together. Nowadays the print format is readily available in an electronic format that is easily accessible via the Internet.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific aims and objectives are:

- To determine the purpose of using e- journals available in the university libraries of Bangladesh;
- To know the impact of using e-journals on academics in the university libraries;
- To identify the challenges faced by the users in the university libraries;
- To offer some suitable suggestions for improving e-journal services in the University libraries of Bangladesh.

METHODOLOGY

In order to obtain the experiences and the impact of using e-journals by academics in the university libraries of Bangladesh the survey method was utilized and a structured questionnaire was used to gather knowledge and experiences of the respondents (i. e. academics and research students). The data were collected 20th March, 2017 - 20th August, 2017. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected in the survey. Responses to close-ended questions in particular on 7-point Likert scales were analysed using the descriptive analysis techniques of SPSS 16.0 and responses to other closed-ended questions were analysed using general statistics. Responses to the open-ended questions were coded to identify the themes within the questionnaire data that relates to the research questions of this study. To ensure the anonymity of the respondents, qualitative data were analysed using the short form of respondents as Respondents 1 (R1), Respondents 2 (R2), etc. A total of 120 questionnaires were distributed to 10 university library users (i. e. academics and research students) to obtain feedback of e-journals and determine their conceptual issues, present status, purpose and impact of e-journals on academics. Among them, we received 100 questionnaires with properly filled up and the response rate was 83.3%. Data were gathered from the faculty and students of Dhaka University Library (DUL), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Library (BUETL), Rajshahi University Library (RUL), Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology Library (CUETL), Jagannath University Library (JNUL), Ayesha Abed Library (AABL), East-West University Library (EWUL), Islamic University of Technology Library (IUTL), Asian University for women Library (AUWL) and North South University Library (NSUL). From each university, five (5) faculty members and seven (7) research students were selected, who were using e-journals. They were requested to give some time for the questionnaire. We used a set of structured questionnaire. Respondents (faculty members and research students) those who were participating and experienced e-journals, sharing their insight and observations regarding the impact of e- journals usage in the university libraries of Bangladesh. To contact the academicians and research students, we took the help of library professionals. We gave the questionnaires to the librarians and then they returned the questionnaires after filled up by the users.

THE PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

The respondents of the public and private university libraries were requested to mention their higher educational qualifications.

Table 1: Profile of the Respondents

Educational Qualifications	Graduate	Postgraduate	MPhil	PhD
	33.0%	28.0%	9.0%	30.0%
Type of Respondents	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	50		50	

Table 1 revealed that the distribution of educational qualification and types of academics. We can see that 33.0% of the respondents were graduate, followed by 28.0% postgraduate, 9.0% M. Phil and “30.0% Ph. D. The table 1 also shows that 50% of the respondents were faculty (n=50) while the rest 50% were research students (n=50).

THE PURPOSE OF USING E-JOURNALS

Rating on the Degree to which Respondents Agree/Disagree for the Purpose of using e-Journals

The respondents were asked to indicate the degree to which they agree or disagree about the purpose of using e-journals. The responses received from them were measured in seven point Likert scales, and responses were calculated according to the following scores: strongly disagree=1.00; disagree=2.00; somewhat=3.00; neutral=4.00; agree=5.00; agree somewhat=6.00; strongly agree=7.00.

Table 2: The Purpose of using e-Journals by the Respondents

Statements	N	Min	Max	Mean	S. D
Academic & professional development	100	1	7	5.36	1.851
Preparation of lectures	100	1	7	4.84	1.710
Course work Assignment	100	1	7	4.81	1.680
Writing & publishing research article(s)	100	1	7	5.36	1.946
Completion of Thesis/Dissertation	100	1	7	5.35	1.882
Recommend reading for students	100	1	7	4.87	1.704
Further reading(s) on topic interest(s)	100	1	7	5.02	1.711
Pursuing e-abstract of journals	100	1	7	4.74	1.942
Professional competency	100	1	7	4.97	1.017
Regular updating of content	100	1	7	5.11	1.922
Search for necessary resources	100	1	7	5.48	1.573

Table 2 elaborates the purpose of using the e-journals. The analysis shows that the majority of the respondents preferred e-journals for “search for necessary resources” (with the mean score of 5.48) while the second highest of the respondents preferred e-journals for “writing & publishing research articles” and “academic& professional development” (with the mean score of 5.36). “Completion of thesis/dissertation” as a purpose of using e-journals ranked third (with the mean score of 5.35), followed by “regular updating of content” (with the mean score of (5.11). The other purposes for using e-journals are: “further reading(s) on topic interest(s)” (with the mean score of 5.02), “professional competency” (with the mean score of 4.97) “recommend reading for students” (with the mean score of 4.87), “preparation of lectures” (with the mean score of 4.84), “course work Assignment” (with the mean score of 4.81) and “pursuing e-abstract of journals” (with the mean score of 4.74).

THE IMPACT OF USING E-JOURNALS ON ACADEMICS

The respondents were asked to know about the impact of e-journals on academics. The responses received from them were measured on the same scale appeared in 3.7.1.

Table 3: The Impact of e-Journals on Academics

Statements	N	Min	Max	Mean	S. D
Facilitate to improve quality of research work	100	1	7	5.46	1.566
Enable to improve the quantity of research work	100	1	7	5.48	1.738
Provide access to a wide range of information	100	1	7	5.47	1.696
Give access to up-to-date information	100	1	7	5.46	1.755
Accelerate the research process	100	1	7	5.32	1.728
Extend the range of work	100	1	7	5.32	1.582

Table 3: Contd.,					
Reduce working time	100	1	7	5.38	1.710
To improve professional competency	100	1	7	5.32	1.746
Interest to use of EJ for research in the future	100	1	7	5.41	1.821

Table 3 elaborates the impact of using e-journals on academics. The analysis shows that the majority of the respondents agreed with the statement that e-journals “Enable to improve the quantity of research work” (with the mean score of 5.48) while the second highest of the respondents agreed with the statement e-journals “Provide access to a wide range of information” (with the mean score of 5.47). The statement “Facilitate to improve quality of research work” and “Give access to up-to-date information” ranked third (with the mean score of 5.46), followed by “Interest to use of EJ for research in future” (with the mean score of (5.41). The respondents agreed with the other statements are: “Reduce working time” (with the mean score of 5.38), “Accelerate the research process”, “Improve professional competency” and “Extend the range of work” (with the mean score of 5.32).

RESEARCH ARTICLES BEFORE AND AFTER USING E-JOURNALS

Users Impact of DUL

The respondents were asked to mention their number of research articles before and after using e-journals. **Table 4** shows that the respondents of Dhaka university library (R1 to R10) reported that the number of research articles had amazingly increased after using e-journals.

Table 4: Users Impact of Dhaka University Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of Dhaka University Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	25	40
	R2	22	37
	R3	5	25
	R4	17	22
	R5	4	22
Research Students	R6	5	21
	R7	3	5
	R8	2	3
	R9	2	3
	910	0	2

Users Impact of BUET Library

Table 5 reflecting the impact of using e-journals, respondents of the BUET library (R1 to R10) indicates that the quantity of research articles had increased after using e-journals.

Table 5: Users Impact of BUET Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of BUET Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	15	25
	R2	10	27
	R3	5	25
	R4	10	15
	R5	4	16
Research Students	R6	5	7
	R7	3	6
	R8	3	5
	R9	2	3
	910	1	3

Users Impact of CUET Library

Table 6 shows that the respondents of CUET library (R1 to R10) explored that the number of research articles had tremendously increased after using e-journals.

Table 6: Users Impact of CUET Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of CUET Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	5	25
	R2	10	22
	R3	4	24
	R4	5	15
	R5	3	23
Research Students	R6	2	4
	R7	2	5
	R8	1	3
	R9	0	3
	910	1	2

Users Impact of RU Library

Table 7 showing that the respondents of RU library (R1 to R10) explored that the number of research articles had amazingly increased after using e-journals.

Table 7: Users Impact of Rajshahi University Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of Rajshahi University Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	4	12
	R2	2	6
	R3	1	8
	R4	0	5
	R5	2	6
Research Students	R6	0	1
	R7	0	2
	R8	1	2
	R9	0	3
	910	0	2

Users Impact of JNU Library

Table 8 showing that the respondents of JNU library (R1 to R10) stated that the number of research articles had amazingly increased after using e-journals.

Table 8: Users Impact of Jagannath University Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of Jagannath University Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	3	10
	R2	2	6
	R3	6	25
	R4	4	18
	R5	3	11
Research Students	R6	2	4
	R7	1	2
	R8	1	3
	R9	0	2
	910	0	1

Users Impact of BRAC Library

Table 9 shows that the respondents of AAL library (R1 to R10) stated that the number of research articles had amazingly increased after using e-journals.

Table 9: Users Impact of BRAC University Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of BRAC University Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	4	10
	R2	3	9
	R3	2	6
	R4	4	12
	R5	3	14
Research Students	R6	1	2
	R7	0	2
	R8	1	3
	R9	1	2
	910	0	1

Users Impact of EWU Library

Table 10 reflecting the impact ratio of before and after using e-journals of the academics in the university libraries of Bangladesh.

Table 10 Users Impact of East West University Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of East West University Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	2	7
	R2	4	10
	R3	4	12
	R4	2	10
	R5	5	15
Research Students	R6	2	6
	R7	1	3
	R8	0	2
	R9	0	1
	910	1	3

Users impact of NSU Library

The respondents of NSU library (R1 to R10) stated that the number of research articles had amazingly increased after using e-journals. Table 11 representing the impact ratio before and after using e-journals.

Table 11: Users Impact of North South University Library

Type of Respondents	Users impact of North South University Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	2	8
	R2	1	7
	R3	1	5
	R4	2	5
	R5	2	6
Research Students	R6	0	2
	R7	0	1
	R8	0	1
	R9	1	3
	910	0	2

Users Impact of IUT Library

The participating respondents of IUT library (R1 to R10) showed that the number of research articles had amazingly increased after using e-journals. Table 12 present the impact ratio before and after using e-journals.

Table 12: Users Impact of IUT University Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of IUT Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	4	17
	R2	2	15
	R3	4	20
	R4	6	21
	R5	2	7
Research Students	R6	1	3
	R7	0	3
	R8	1	2
	R9	1	3
	910	0	2

Users Impact of AUW Library

The participating respondents of AUW library (R1 to R10) showed that the number of research articles had amazingly increased after using e-journals. Table 13 present the impact ratio before and after using e-journals.

Table 13: Users Impact of AUW University Library

Type of Respondents	Users Impact of AUW Library		
	No of Respondents (n=10)	No of Research Articles before using EJ	No of Research Articles after using EJ
Faculty	R1	10	20
	R2	4	18
	R3	3	10
	R4	4	15
	R5	2	18
Research Students	R6	1	2
	R7	0	1
	R8	1	2
	R9	0	1
	910	0	1

Problems and Barriers of using e-Journals

The respondents were requested to identify the major problems to use e-journals in their libraries. The responses received from them were measured on the same scale appeared in 3.7.1.

Table 14: Problems and Barriers Regarding usage of e-Journals

Statements	N	Min	Max	Mean	S. D
Unavailability of EJ services out of university	100	1	7	3.87	2.130
Subscription period	100	2	7	4.73	1.692
Unwillingness to explore new e-journals by	100	1	7	4.32	1.896
Lack of infrastructure facilities	100	1	7	4.22	2.063
Difficulty in finding relevant information	100	1	7	4.33	1.770
Take too long to view/download pages	100	1	7	4.37	1.878
Difficulty in reading from screen	100	1	7	4.22	1.796
Content search is difficult	100	1	7	4.15	1.800
Deficit of field/theme coverage	100	1	7	4.15	1.904
lack of knowledge about advanced search techniques	100	1	7	4.09	2.085
Inadequate campaign for promoting EJ services	100	1	7	4.59	1.934
Lack of training and workshop for using e-journals	100	1	7	4.51	1.915

Table 14 elaborates the problems and barriers of using the e-journals. The analysis shows that the majority of the respondents indicated the problem of “subscription period” (with the mean score of 4.73) while the second highest of the respondents claimed the cause of “inadequate campaign for promoting EJ services” (with the mean score of 4.51). Followed respondents (with the mean score of 4.37) stated the obstacle of “take too long to view/download pages”. Followed by “difficulty in finding relevant information” (with the mean score of 4.33), “unwillingness to explore new e-journals by professionals” (with the mean score of 4.32), “Difficulty in reading from screen” and “lack of infrastructure facilities” (with the mean score of 4.22), “content search is difficult” and “deficit of field/theme coverage” (with the mean score of 4.15), “lack of knowledge about advanced search techniques” (with the mean score of 4.09), “unavailability of e-journal services out of the university which affect research” (with the mean score of 3.87).

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the survey, the respondents were asked to fill some open ended questions about recommendations for improvement of e-journal services in the university libraries of Bangladesh. 8.11.1 Need more e-journals

R1 mentioned that to cover all the subject's content university library should subscribe more e-journals and should arrange their online journal list according to user's needs.

Appoint Qualified Staff

R2 explored that the university library needs more skilled professionals for helping the users in accessing, downloading and printing of journal articles properly and easily.

Supervise the whole Process

R3 stated that libraries should introduce feedback systems for observing the proper use of e-journal facility for all kinds of users in the library.

Arrange Open Discussion or Symposium

R4 found to increase more awareness about e-journal services for user university library authority should arrange the seminar, symposium and workshop on e-journal services.

Highlight on User's Demand

R5 stated that users demand regarding e-journals should be done on a regular basis before and after the subscription of the resources. Library professionals can collect the requirements and suggestions from the academics, scholars as well as others which have to subscribe or not.

Develop Strong Consortia

R6 indicates that the university library should strongly establish consortia or buying clubs at the library, which will not only ensure e-journal subscription at minimized cost, but also give a suitable platform to share resources and conduct a joint survey and training programme for users and professionals as well.

Maintaining the System

R7 mentioned that maintaining the subscription of e-journals are a significant task for the professionals. Better policy and procedure should be established and the professionals should handle the activity that will make the whole process easy and smooth.

Remote Access

R8 stated that academicians, research scholars and students prefer to search e-journals from their residence and other place of the university. University library authority should allow remote access for use of e-journal services remotely via proxy server.

Advertisement

R9 explored that in order to promote the benefits and facilities of e-journal services the university libraries should arranged advertising activities on a regular basis. This is mandatory for creating awareness and increasing the number of

the users of e-journal services.

Develop Infrastructural Facilities

R10 stated that enough computers and internet connection user friendly for the users of e-journals as they can download files easily from the library. Thus, there have a need for more computers and speedy networks for e-journal services in libraries.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the study showed an outlook of the impact of using e-journals by the faculty and research students. To select the sample, we used the UGC university ranking list and previous reputation of the universities. We calculated from the survey that one hundred (100) responses received from ten different disciplines to notice the purpose of using e-journals by the users and impact of e-journals on academics. Almost all respondents were interested about the e-journals and it was observed that faculty members and research students has increased their research articles after using e-journals. The main purposes of using e-journals as reported by the faculty members include research, education, professional achievement and current information. However, research students reported the following reasons for using e-journals education, course work assignment and completion of thesis. Almost all academics reported using it for research purpose, and they would do the same in the future also. In this study some problems were highlighted about e-journals services and to offer some suggestions for the betterment of the e-journals services in the university libraries of Bangladesh.

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